

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A toner for electrophotography, comprising a binder resin comprising a linear polymer having a softening point of 50° C or lower, a colorant and a releasing agent, being in the form of particles and having a viscosity, a storage modulus G' and a loss modulus G'' ,

wherein the viscosity is 1×10^3 Pa·s or more, and a loss tangent $\tan \delta$ as the ratio of G' to G'' is 0.4 or more at temperatures from 140°C to 170°C.

Claim 2 (Original): A toner for electrophotography according to Claim 1, wherein the viscosity is 1×10^5 Pa·s or less at temperatures from 140°C to 170°C.

Claim 3 (Original): A toner for electrophotography according to Claim 1, wherein the loss tangent $\tan \delta$ is 1.1 or less at temperatures from 140°C to 170°C.

Claim 4 (Original): A toner for electrophotography according to Claim 1, wherein pellets prepared from the toner by compression molding have a contact angle with water of 70 degrees or more.

Claim 5 (Original): A toner for electrophotography according to Claim 1, wherein the toner particles have a volume-average particle diameter D_v of 4 μm to 8 μm .

Claim 6 (Original): A toner for electrophotography according to Claim 1, wherein the toner particles have a ratio D_v/D_n of a volume-average particle diameter D_v to a number-average particle diameter D_n , being 1.25 or less.

Claim 7 (Original): A toner for electrophotography according to Claim 6, wherein the toner particles have a ratio D_v/D_n of a volume-average particle diameter D_v to a number-average particle diameter D_n , being 1.10 or more.

Claim 8 (Original): A toner for electrophotography according to Claim 1, wherein the toner particles have an average sphericity of 0.94 to 0.99.

Claim 9 (Original): A toner for electrophotography according to Claim 8, wherein the average sphericity is from 0.945 to 0.985.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A toner for electrophotography according to Claim 1, wherein the binder resin comprises a crosslinked polymer ~~and a linear polymer~~.

Claim 11 (Canceled).

Claim 12 (Original): A toner for electrophotography according to Claim 1, wherein the binder resin comprises at least one of a polyester resin and a polyol resin.

Claim 13 (Original): A toner for electrophotography according to Claim 1, wherein the releasing agent is at least one selected from the group consisting of unesterified fatty acid eliminated carnauba wax, montan ester wax, rice wax and Sasol wax.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended/Withdrawn): An image forming process comprising the steps of:

charging a latent electrostatic image bearing member with a charger which is applied with a voltage;

irradiating the latent electrostatic image bearing member with light so as to form a latent electrostatic image;

developing the latent electrostatic image using a toner so as to form a toner image;

transferring the toner image from the latent electrostatic image bearing member to a transfer medium; and

fixing the toner image on the transfer medium, wherein the toner is a toner for electrophotography, comprising a binder resin comprising a linear polymer having a softening point of 50°C or lower, a colorant and a releasing agent, being in the form of particles and having a viscosity, a storage modulus G' and a loss modulus G'' ,

wherein the viscosity is 1×10^3 Pa·s or more and a loss tangent $\tan \delta$ as the ratio of G' to G'' is 0.4 or more at temperatures from 140°C to 170°C.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn): An image forming process according to Claim 14, further comprising a step of applying an alternating electric field at the same time of developing the latent electrostatic image.

Claim 16 (Withdrawn): An image forming process according to Claim 14, wherein the latent electrostatic image bearing member is an amorphous silicon latent electrostatic image bearing member.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended/Withdrawn): A process cartridge being attachable to and detachable from a main body of an image forming apparatus and integrally comprising:
a latent electrostatic image bearing member; and

at least one selected from the group consisting of:

a charging unit configured to charge the latent electrostatic image bearing member,

a developing unit housing a toner, configured to develop a latent electrostatic image using the toner to form a toner image, and

a cleaning unit configured to clean residual toner remained on the latent electrostatic image bearing member after transfer,

wherein the toner is a toner for electrophotography, comprising a binder resin comprising a linear polymer having a softening point of 50°C or lower, a colorant and a releasing agent, being in the form of particles and having a viscosity, a storage modulus G' and a loss modulus G'' ,

wherein the viscosity is 1×10^3 Pa·s or more and a loss tangent $\tan \delta$ as the ratio of G' to G'' is 0.4 or more at temperatures from 140°C to 170°C.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended/Withdrawn): An image forming apparatus comprising:

a latent electrostatic image bearing member;

a charging unit equipped with a charger, configured to bring the charger into contact with the latent electrostatic image bearing member and to apply a voltage to the charger so as to charge the latent electrostatic image bearing member;

an exposing unit configured to irradiate the latent electrostatic image bearing member with light so as to form a latent electrostatic image;

a developing unit housing a toner, configured to develop the latent electrostatic image using the toner so as to form a toner image;

a transfer unit configured to transfer the toner image from the latent electrostatic image bearing member to a transfer medium; and

a fixing unit configured to fix the toner image on the transfer medium,

wherein the toner is a toner for electrophotography, comprising a binder resin comprising a linear polymer having a softening point of 50°C or lower, a colorant and a releasing agent, being in the form of particles and having a viscosity, a storage modulus G' and a loss modulus G'' ,

wherein the viscosity is 1×10^3 Pa·s or more and a loss tangent $\tan \delta$ as the ratio of G'' to G' is 0.4 or more at temperatures from 140°C to 170°C.